

ELECTION OF SPECIES

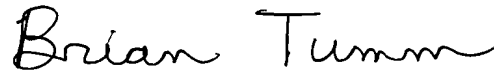
Applicants elect without traverse, the invention of Group I drawn to a production method of polyolefin foamed sheets. This invention corresponds to Claims 1-5. Claims 6-8 have been cancelled.

The Abstract has been amended to correspond to USPTO rules. The title has been amended to only describe the claimed method. Approval is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, there is no indication that Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed August 26, 2003 has been considered. The Information Disclosure Statement includes the references of record from the European Search Report as listed on Form PTO-1449. Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicates that a copy of the International Search Report and copies of the references cited therein have been provided to the USPTO. Therefore, Applicants need not supply copies of the references. Applicants request that the references be officially considered and an initialed Form PTO-1449 be returned with the next Office Action.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian R. Tumm

BRT/ad

FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL	Dale H. Thiel	Reg. No. 24 323
& TANIS, P.C.	David G. Boutell	Reg. No. 25 072
2026 Rambling Road	Ronald J. Tanis	Reg. No. 22 724
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-1631	Terryence F. Chapman	Reg. No. 32 549
Phone: (269) 381-1156	Mark L. Maki	Reg. No. 36 589
Fax: (269) 381-5465	David S. Goldenberg	Reg. No. 31 257
	Sidney B. Williams, Jr.	Reg. No. 24 949
	Liane L. Churney	Reg. No. 40 694
	Brian R. Tumm	Reg. No. 36 328
	Robert J. Sayfie	Reg. No. 37 714

Encl: Replacement Abstract
Postal Card

Abstract

B2

A ~~polyolefine~~polyolefin foam sheet production method ~~using~~uses a device having first and second heating rolls
5 ~~(62, 63) and provided with~~for supporting and rotating an
endless belt ~~(65) passed around the rolls and rotated,~~
~~wherein a~~A foaming base sheet ~~(69)~~ is brought into contact
with the first roll ~~(62)~~ via the belt ~~(65)~~ and heated at
temperatures not lower than a temperature ~~to permit~~that
10 permits thermocompression-bonding to the belt ~~(65)~~ and lower
than a foaming initiation temperature to thermocompression-
bond the sheet ~~(69)~~ to the belt ~~(65)~~; ~~then.~~ Then the sheet
~~(69)~~ is brought into contact with the second roll ~~(63)~~ via
the belt ~~(65)~~ and heated for foaming at temperatures not
15 lower than a foaming initiation temperature to form a foam
sheet ~~(61)~~, whereby stretching/shrinking and wrinkling of
the foam sheet at heating/foaming ~~can be~~is prevented.